

TOP SECRET RUFF

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Attachment to [REDACTED]
27 August 1969

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REFERENCE: 1107-1

INDIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY
EASTERN JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD [REDACTED])

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BOARD DEPICTS THE DISPOSITION OF INDIAN MILITARY FORCES AND THE LOGISTICS NETWORK IN THE LADAKH REGION OF EASTERN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

2. LOCATION:

THE OBSERVED INDIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IS DISPERSED FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 130 NM TO THE WEST OF AND PARALLELING THE KARAKORUM MOUNTAIN RANGE AND APPROXIMATELY 330 NM NORTH OF NEW DELHI.

3. REMARKS:

THE BORDER BETWEEN INDIAN CONTROLLED EASTERN JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND CHINA'S SINKIANG PROVINCE AND TIBET IS IN DISPUTE WITH CHINESE TROOPS OCCUPYING THE NORTHEAST PORTION OF THE LADAKH AREA KNOWN AS AKSAI CHIN.

4. COLLATERAL:

CHINA REPORTEDLY BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR ROAD THROUGH AKSAI CHIN IN 1957 TO CONNECT SINKIANG PROVINCE WITH TIBET. THEIR PHYSICAL OCCUPATION OF

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THE AKSAI CHIN AREA BEGAN IN EARLY 1960. BOTH THE ROAD NETWORK AND THE CHINESE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHICALLY CONFIRMED.

5. FIRST IDENTIFICATION: A FEW OF THESE CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS WERE IDENTIFIED ON PHOTOGRAPHY AS EARLY AS 1962.
6. MISSION READOUT: MISSION KH 1107-1 OF JUNE 1969 REVEALED THAT INDIAN MILITARY FACILITIES IN EASTERN JAMMU AND KASHMIR INCLUDED 22 MILITARY CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS, A MAJOR AIRFIELD, FOUR SMALL LANDING STRIPS AND TWO DROP ZONES. THE FACILITIES CONTAIN APPROXIMATELY 100 BARRACKS, 50 AMMUNITION STORAGE BUILDINGS, 500 TENTS, 25 ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS, FIVE PROBABLE HELICOPTER PADS, AT LEAST 175 PROBABLE VEHICLES AND 85 MISCELLANEOUS ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS.

THE MAJOR MILITARY COMPLEX IN THE AREA IS CENTERED AROUND LEH AIRFIELD (INSET 1) WITH A 10,450 X 150 FEET CONCRETE AND BLACKTOP RUNWAY. THIS COMPLEX IS THE MAIN SUPPORT FACILITY FOR THE SMALLER CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS ALONG THE BORDER AND CONTAINS THREE MAJOR BARRACKS AREAS, A GENERAL SUPPLY AREA, AND TWO LARGE AMMUNITION STORAGE AREAS.

MOST OF THE CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS ARE CONNECTED BY ROAD ALTHOUGH OLD CARAVAN TRAILS STILL SERVE SOME OF THE MORE ISOLATED OUTPOSTS. TWO OF THE FORWARD

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OUTPOSTS ARE SERVED ONLY BY DROP ZONES (INSET 2).

THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY ROADS IN THE AREA: ONE ROAD, RUNNING NW/SE ALONG THE THE INDUS RIVER, HAS FOUR BRANCH ROADS SERVING CAMPS AND OUTPOSTS; AND ONE ROAD RUNNING NNE/SSW, CONNECTS THE INDUS RIVER ROAD WITH THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

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